



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,806	04/12/2001	Akira Arai	9319A-000202	1937

27572 7590 11/06/2002

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

SHEEHAN, JOHN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1742

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/833,806

Applicant(s)

ARAI ET AL.

Examiner

John P. Sheehan

Art Unit

1742

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) John P. Sheehan.

(3) Mr. Bryant Wade.

(2) Mr. Jason Heist.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 22 October 2002.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-17.

Identification of prior art discussed: Funkuno et al., Hackman et al, Honeycutt and Bartlett.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

i) ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview (if box is checked).

Unless the paragraph above has been checked, THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The attached proposed amendment was discussed. The Examiner indicated that the amendment appears to overcome the rejections under 112 and 102 and the 103 rejections based on Hackman et al., Honeycutt and Bartlett. The Examiner took the position that although Fukuno is silent with respect to the groove width Fukuno teaches that the groove width appears to be a result effective variable (column 4, line 54 to column 5, line 13) and that the optimization of a result effective variable is obvious. Applicants pointed out that in all of the references including Fukuno (column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 6) the intent is that the molten alloy enter the grooves. Applicants proposed amending the claims to add language indicating that the grooves are of a width that does not allow the molten alloy to enter the grooves. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment may be persuasive but that he would reserve final judgement until such an amendment is submitted in writing and he has time to thoroughly consider applicants' arguments.